

# THE WARHORSE STABLE

Volume 1, Issue 2

Published for the Soldiers and Families of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

Jan. 6, 2005

## INSIDE



**A Time to Mourn**



**Lights for Christmas**



**New Year's Party in the Bunker**



PHOTO BY PFC MICHAEL A. MOLINARO

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is now responsible for the area of operation that includes Najaf, Karbala and the northern Babil province. Col. John Tully, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr. uncase the brigade's colors at FOB Kalsu Jan. 1.

## Warhorse Bde Takes Over

Tully: goal is to work ourselves out of a job

**Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro**  
Staff Writer

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, completed the transfer of authority from the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi National Guard, Jan. 1.

This is the second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for the Warhorse Brigade which deployed during OIF I in 2003.

"It's a proud day for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team to have its colors flying in Iraq again," said Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd BCT.

The brigade's mission is to train Iraqi security forces to conduct operations independent of coalition assistance, Tully said. The brigade will support Iraqi security forces in Najaf, Karbala and the northern Babil province.

"The goal is to work ourselves out of a

job," he said.

During its rotation in Iraq, the 155th supported the country's first free and democratic elections. The brigade captured 1,487 terrorists, confiscated 28,000 weapons and destroyed more than 18,000 pounds of munitions since it arrived in January 2005.

"During the yearlong rotation for the 155th BCT, we have seen victories and losses," said Brig. Gen Augustus L. Collins, commander, 155th BCT.

"For the past year we have fought for the freedom of Iraq. By doing this, we have assisted in denying a safe haven for terrorists."

"We are turning over a piece of ground we hold very dear to us," Collins continued. "I look forward to great things from the 2nd BCT."

"Thanks to the job the 155th did, we are going to get the job done and be successful," Tully said.

Chaplain's Corner*Spiritual Provision*

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Baum  
2nd BCT chaplain

Grace and peace to all of you who have family members and friends serving with the Warhorse brigade!

The brigade unit ministry team is ready and eager to provide for the religious needs of your Soldier. The brigade has a total of seven chaplains and six chaplain assistants.

These unit ministry team members live with the Soldiers of their units and in many ways share the same challenges of deployment.

The chaplains come from a variety of Christian denominations.

As ordained ministers they are able to provide spiritual leadership (lead worship services, etc.) for many of our Soldiers.

However, some Soldiers would prefer chaplains from other denominations and religions. We will try to get other chaplains to come serve those Soldiers.

Unfortunately this is not always possible. The important thing to know is that we take very seriously our responsibility to provide for the free exercise rights of all Soldiers in the brigade.

The unit ministry teams of the brigade have been providing worship services and other forms of religious support since we deployed.

As we become more settled into routines here there will be even more opportunities for Bible studies and other ministry events.

If you have any questions about the religious program offered to your Soldier or have any other questions or concerns I invite you to email me at [david.s.baum@us.army.mil](mailto:david.s.baum@us.army.mil).

God bless you.



Ask the Judge

## Legal Assistance Perks

**Dear Judge:** What exactly is legal assistance and how is this service provided to deployed Soldiers?

Legal assistance is an important and valuable benefit available to service members free of charge.

The Army has been providing this "perk" to its members since way back in 1943.

Congress officially recognized the military services' legal assistance programs in 1984 by enacting 10 U.S.C. sec. 1044(b), which

authorizes provision of legal assistance services "subject to the availability of legal staff resources."

Enough of the historical and technical background though, legal assistance is basically the ability to consult with an attorney on all kinds of personal civil legal matters.

The most commonly consulted issues involve Consumer Law matters; Family Law issues like Divorce, Separation, Adoption and Custodianships; Immigration and Naturalization questions; Real Estate, Landlord and Tenant issues; Basic Estate Planning including Personal Income Tax questions; Bankruptcy; and Military Administrative Law.

Legal Assistance Offices also provide notary services, and help

draft and execute Wills, and Powers of Attorney.

Special emphasis is placed on "Preventive Law," basically informing Soldiers and helping them on their legal preparedness.

Now, the nature of these services does not change much in a deployed environment.

In fact, it is the desire of your command that you focus on the mission with as few distractions

as possible.

So members of the armed forces continue to enjoy the ability to consult with an attorney when civil legal issues arise.

The best place to begin is by contacting your chain of command. They will, if necessary, contact your Brigade Legal Office at FOB Kalsu.

Simple, preliminary questions can be e-mailed to our office at [Horace.Estes@us.army.mil](mailto:Horace.Estes@us.army.mil) and will be answered promptly via e-mail.

If it becomes necessary to personally see legal counsel, your chain of command will make arrangements for a personal legal consultation with a JAG Attorney.

Future numbers of this "Ask the Judge" corner will cover the questions that arise more frequently or that can be answered in this format.

— Submitted by the 2nd BCT  
Legal Assistance Office

## THE WARHORSE STABLE

2nd BCT Commander.....Col. John N. Tully  
2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer.....Maj. Anna Friederich  
2nd BCT Public Affairs NCOIC.....Sgt. Jorge Gomez  
Staff Writer.....Pfc. Michael Molinaro  
Broadcast Journalist.....Pfc. Daniel Turner

The Warhorse Stable is produced in the interest of the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The Warhorse Stable is an Army-funded newsletter authorized under provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the Warhorse Stable are not necessarily the views of, nor endorsed by the, U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 4th Infantry Division.



# Grieving, Honoring and Pressing Forward

By Sgt. Jorge Gomez  
Editor

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, mourned the death of two Soldiers in a ceremony Dec. 29.

The memorial honored Pvt. Joshua Morberg, 20, from Sparks, Nev.; and Spc. Lance Sage, 26, from Hempstead, N.Y., who were killed by improvised explosive devices during combat operations Dec. 27.

Their deaths mark the brigade's first loss since its arrival in Iraq early December.

With the intent to disrupt terrorist activity in the area of operation, the battalion's Soldiers carried on the mission alongside their Iraqi partners in spite of the setback, said Lt. Col. James Howard, commander, 2-8 Inf.

"We continued to clear our objectives and then began an orderly exfiltration. This is exactly how we will handle our loss of two fine men and how we will

pay tribute to them," Howard said. "We will continue the mission, committed to our objectives and to our end state without wavering."

Capt. Ralph Overland, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-8 Inf., said the Soldiers shared many outstanding qualities.

"They were the best our country has to offer, they always gave 100 percent without a complaint," Overland said.

He described Morberg as a Soldier who loved being a scout, that he was always positive about what he was doing. He said his teammates liked him because he was a good listener, easy going, but most of all "because he cared for them."

Of Sage, the company commander described as very smart, especially with computers. He said that he liked imitating people, especially Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Mancuso, scouts platoon sergeant, HHC, 2-8 Inf. But after his time in the HHC training room, the "first sergeant and I sent him back to the scouts because we knew he needed them as



PHOTO BY SGT JORGE GOMEZ

**Maj. Gen. James Thurman, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division, paid tribute to two fallen Soldiers during a memorial ceremony at FOB Kalsu Dec. 29.**

much as they needed him for this mission," Overland said.

"We did not lose Sage and Morberg...They will be with us throughout our mission. They will give us strength and they will watch over us."

## Dealers mourn loss of fallen comrades

Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro  
Staff Writer

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, mourned the loss of two team members in a memorial ceremony Jan. 2 at FOB Iskandariyah.

Spc. Aaron Forbes, 24, from Oak Island, N.C., died Dec. 28 when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device while on patrol.

"Aaron's death stands in proud stead with all Americans who have given their lives so freely in the cause of freedom," said Capt. James Sturm, commander, E Co., 1-67 AR.

Brig. Gen. David D. Halverson, assistant division commander-support, 4th Inf. Div., attended the memorial, along with Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd BCT, and leaders of the Warhorse brigade. Many Iraqis attended grieving



PHOTO BY PFC MICHAEL A MOLINARO

**Capt. James Sturm, commander, Company E, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, reflects before his Soldier's memorial before saluting him Jan. 2 at FOB Iskandariyah.**

the loss of civilian interpreter Ito, a friend to many, who also perished in the attack. "Big Country," as Forbes was

known by his friends and peers, dwarfed people not by his size but by his personality, Sturm said.

Forbes will be missed at company barbecues where he and his wife Britney were always cheering on their son Alec at the children's games, said Sgt. Ryan Webster, E Co., 1-67 AR.

"He was the type of person that once you met him, you always wanted to be around him," Webster said.

"We grimly face this foe, more determined now than ever to defeat this enemy and in conjunction with our Iraqi allies, to secure this land," said Lt. Col. Patrick Donohoe, commander, 1-67 AR.

"Our blood now is physically intermingled with our Iraqi allies and peers."

"Aaron will always be in the hearts and minds of the Soldiers of Echo Company, 1-67," Webster concluded.

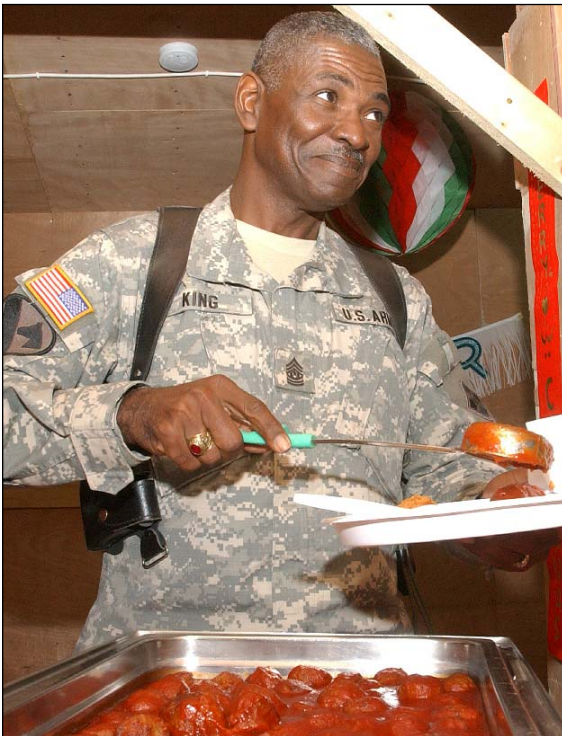




PHOTOS BY PFC MICHAEL A MOLINARO

**"Hamilton's Hummers" sing "Joy to the World" for Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, at a Christmas party at the dining facility bunker.**

# Christmas in a Bunker



Soldiers from HHC, 2nd BCT, made the best of their new home away from home during Christmas.

Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr. helps himself to some Christmas meatballs.

Right: Staff Sgt. Sandi Hamilton highlights the event with a powerful rendition of "What can separate you."







# O Holy Night

Service members at FOB Kalsu worship together at the All Faiths Chapel on Christmas night.

Left: Chaplain (Capt.) Ladislao Hernandez, Special Troops Battalion, begins the candle light service.

Right: Chaplain (Capt.) Neal Hicks, 2-8th Inf. Battalion, delivers the meaning of Christmas to the faithful.



Service members conclude an evening Christmas service with “Silent Night, Holy Night” at FOB Kalsu.



# Celebrating the New Year



Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, enjoy their non-alcoholic beverages to celebrate the new year.



PHOTOS BY PFC MICHAEL A MOLINARO

Sgt. Ryan Rojas, armorer, HHC, 2nd BCT, blows the old year away and welcomes the new.

Salsa music shakes up the dining facility bunker minutes before the new year. First Lt. Omar Davila, assistant S-4, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and Tina Davis, deployment support specialist, party to the salsa beat. Right: Soldiers at FOB Kalsu make some noise at the break of the new year.





# And the Winner is...

## Fearless predictions for upcoming NFL playoffs

By Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro  
Staff Writer

The second season is ready to begin in the National Football League and 12 teams are left in the quest to claim the Vince Lombardi trophy in Super Bowl XL. Here's how one "expert" believes it will play out:

### AFC Playoffs

Indianapolis and Denver secured first round byes and will be home watching the first round contests, getting a much deserved rest after 16 grueling games. The first game pits Jacksonville against defending champion New England. The Patriots are battle-tested and should have no problem with the young Jaguars. Pittsburgh travels to arch-rival Cincinnati, where the Bengals are hosting a playoff game for the first time in 15 years. But their joy will be short-lived when the red-hot Steelers role over Cincinnati and move into the divisional round.

The first game in the next round will pit the Patriots at Denver. The Broncos are playing their best football in years and will be rested. But the Patriots have been here before and have no thoughts of giving up their title as league champs. New England prevails. Pittsburgh will go to Indianapolis to play the conference's best team, the Colts. Peyton Manning and company are poised to get over the hump and play in the Super Bowl. But Pittsburgh's veteran savvy team will pull off the huge upset and make up for an earlier season loss to the Colts and pull off a squeaker in Indy.

The championship game will be in Foxboro and will be a rematch of last season's AFC title game, where the Patriots handed the Steelers a devastating loss. Revenge is sweet though, and just

like in Indianapolis, the road warrior Steelers will pull off a third upset in the playoffs and represent the AFC in Detroit.

### NFC Playoffs

Seattle, with the league's best regular season record, and Chicago earned first round byes. The first round games in the NFL have Washington on the road at Tampa Bay, and Carolina going into New York to face the Giants. The Redskins are streaking but may be without quarterback Mark Brunell. Tampa, with a solid defense, will win on its turf and advance to the divisional round. In what could be the best game of the first round, the Giants will beat Carolina in a nail-biter that will go all the way to the end.

---

*"...the Patriots have been here before and have no thoughts of giving up their title as league champs."*

---

— Pfc. Michael A. Molinaro  
Sports Commentator

---

body has to win. I'll take the Bears. New York will travel cross-country and play Seattle. In a completely opposite game as the Bucs-Bears game, points will be scored and the defense that plays better should win. New York tires down the stretch and the Seahawks succeed.

In the NFC championship game in Seattle, the Bears, who were predicted to finish last in its division, will put their league-best defense against record-setting Shaun Alexander and the Seahawks' high-flying offense. They say defense wins championships, but not today. Seattle wins and will go to its first-ever Super Bowl.

### Super Bowl XL

The Steelers enter the Super Bowl prohibitive underdogs against Seattle. All of the talk centers around Alexander

T a m p a Bay will go to the Windy City and take on the Bears. This could be the lowest scoring playoff game ever and some-



COURTESY PHOTO BY ESPN.COM

**Willie Parker and the Pittsburgh Steelers enter the playoffs on a four-game winning streak**

and the Seahawks. But Jerome Bettis, the face of the Steeler organization, is in his hometown of Detroit playing in his first Super Bowl in his last season. The Steelers, the first team ever to win three road games to advance to the game, does it again and sends Bettis off into retirement a champion. Pittsburgh wins Super Bowl XL and claims its fifth NFL title.

## Horns Hook USC

The University of Texas Longhorns won the BCS championship Jan. 4 41-38 over two-time defending champion USC Trojans. MVP Vince Young totaled 467 total yards along with three rushing touchdowns in the upset win at the Rose Bowl. It is the school's first football championship since 1969. Texas has now won 20 straight games.



PHOTO BY SGT JORGE GOMEZ

**Sgt. Alberto Olivera, S-4 assistant NCO, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, used to keep track of club music, bands and beer in a Puerto Rico night club. He now keeps track of combat power vehicles in Iraq. Olivera said he finds greater satisfaction in serving Soldiers than customers at the club.**

## Former Night Club Owner Joins Army

**By Sgt. Jorge Gomez**  
Editor

Alberto Olivera dreamed about having it all. So he dropped out of college in Puerto Rico.

"At that time, money was more important to me than college," he said.

He became a supervisor in a name brand store after impressing the manager with his organizational skills.

"I started to make good money and was happy with the job," Olivera said, but one day during a carnival in Manati, Puerto Rico, he walked into a night club.

"It looked like a good club but the people didn't seem to be having much fun so I approached the DJ and made a few suggestions."

After taking control of the microphone and rallying the crowd, the owner decided to let Olivera DJ for a few nights. Eventually Olivera worked his way throughout the club from DJ to doorman to bartender.

Seeing how the owners were mismanaging the club, Olivera said he believed they were making a big mistake.

"The owners weren't organizing their employees, but that's because they weren't taking the club as a serious business," he said.

He made suggestions on how to improve it but instead the owners made him the manager. He quit his job at the sporting wear store and focused solely on the club.

"I made big changes to the club. I made a plan for every week and projected what music or bands would play on a given night."

He worked full-time to make the club a better place. But then the owners offered to sell him the club since he was taking it more serious than they.

A year had almost gone by since he first walked into the club as a customer and now the same carnival was approaching—and that meant a big crowd. This time he was the owner.

"But during the carnival I started to think about what I was getting myself into," he said.

Fights were breaking out and drunk people were causing problems.

"I asked myself if I really wanted to do this for the rest of my life."

Olivera said he felt the need to work his way out of the business because it wasn't the kind of future he wanted.

One day when he was going home in the morning, he saw an Army recruiting station.

He walked into the station in July

2002 and learned about being a supply specialist. His days as an entrepreneur were numbered.

When he first stepped into Fort Jackson's basic combat training, he said he saw that he could do something significant out of his life.

"It was exciting to be a club owner because it made me famous. But looking back, I realize it was just the club that was famous. People didn't look at me for my achievements. In the Army I'm gaining personal satisfaction and building inside myself things that I could look back on and be proud of," he said.

For Olivera, helping Soldiers is what makes his day go well.

"If I can't help a Soldier with what he needs, it's like waking up without having a cup of coffee. I have even given Soldiers my own personal items when I've had trouble finding them."

Sgt. Olivera is the S-4 assistant NCO for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

He said he is currently looking at starting a night club or a miniature golf course on FOB Kalsu.

"If I can get something going on to help Soldiers feel like they are back home with a club or golf course, then I will be happy to help them out this way."